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NO. 6

STARTLING

TERROR

TALES

HE HAD FOUGHT IN THE RAIN AND BLOODY MUD, IN SUN AND BLOODY DUST, WANTING NO GLORY, WANTING ONLY TO FIGHT FOR HIS MEN, TO FIGHT SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH THEM. THAT'S WHY HE COULDN'T DIE, WHY THE MEN COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE FRIGHTENING-



FOOTPRINT OF death



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NEW! 1953 "Space Commander" Vibro-Matic WALKIE TALKIES



**No Electric Wires!
No Batteries!**

**2 WAY!
SENDS! RECEIVES!**

VOICE—SONGS—MUSIC

**Talk between house and
garage . . between rooms
. . from house to house!**

If by some magical means you could turn back the clock and become a child again, no toy would enthral you more than these amazing "SPACE COMMANDER" WALKIE TALKIES! Alice in Wonderland never had anything to compare with them! Yes! This is the gift rage of the year for boys and girls! Not just a toy! These Vibro-Matic Walkie Talkies are a precision made communication system. NOW they can talk back and forth for hundreds of feet, between rooms, from house to garden and between homes too! Imagine how thrilled they'll be to "speak thru Space!"

**Works Like Magic!
FULLY GUARANTEED**

This latest, newest 1953 model has just been received. It is a precision-made product of the world's largest manufacturer of Walkie-Talkies. Utilizes highly sensitive VIBRO-MATIC design. Uses no batteries, no electrical wires, no plug-in. No gears or moving parts. Each unit is self-contained and sends as well as receives messages, songs, music, etc., which travel over the conductor line for hundreds of feet, clear and distinct. Requires no license. Will not interfere with radio reception. Works equally well indoors or out.

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**5-DAY TRIAL
Money-Back Guarantee**

SEND NO MONEY NOW. Order a Space Commander Walkie-Talkie set NOW at the extra-low price of 1.00. Pay only 1.00 plus a few cents postage on delivery to you of the 2 phones and easy instructions. Enjoy them with your children for 5 WHOLE DAYS, free of any obligation—entirely at our risk. See if it doesn't thrill them no end. You and they too must be delighted. Otherwise your dollar comes back to you! Better rush! The demand is very great and our supply is limited. Mail the coupon TODAY!

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**1.00
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NEW!
They're
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HE HAD FOUGHT IN THE RAIN AND BLOODY MUD, IN SUN AND BLOODY DUST, WANTING NO GLORY, WANTING ONLY TO FIGHT FOR HIS MEN, TO FIGHT SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH THEM. THAT'S WHY HE COULDN'T DIE, WHY THE MEN COULDN'T LET HIM DIE.

FOOTPRINT of DEATH..



"WE LOVED THE BIG GOON, SGT. BULL WHITEHEAD, AND HE LOVED AND MOTHERED US LIKE A HEN WITH A BROOD OF CHICKS. AND THE FOLLOWING IS EVIDENCE OF HIS GREATEST SACRIFICE, ALTHOUGH I DOUBT THAT ANYONE WILL BELIEVE IT. WE HAD ADVANCED WELL ABOVE THE 38TH IN OUR KOREAN OFFENSIVE AND THE REDS WERE HANGING ON FRANTICALLY....



"WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN STOPPED DEAD IN OUR TRACKS, BUT REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED. THEN WE REALLY GAVE THE REDS A GOING-OVER. THEY HELD FOR A WHILE, THEN TOOK IT ON THE LAM..."

R-RAT-TAT-TA TAT-TAT-TAT



THE REDS--WHAT WAS LEFT OF THEM--MELTED INTO THE HILLS AND WE DUG IN. WE KNEW THEY'D BE BACK, BUT WE HAD LEARNED TO RELAX WHEN AND WHERE WE COULD...

JOE KATZ SAYS YOU SAVED MY LIFE, SARGE, AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT., THANKS!

JOE TALKS TOO/M..... HEY! DUCK! FLATTEN OUT!



EVERYONE OKAY? YOU OKAY, SARGE?

YEAH, ON'Y THOSE # % \$ & # % % TURKEYS! THOSE # % \$ & # \$ # & % REDS!



IT WOULD TAKE A LOUSY RED TO SPLIT HAIRS LIKE THAT! NOT MY LEG! NOT MY FOOT! NOT EVEN MY BIG TOE! BUT THEY SHOOT THE HEEL OFF MY BOOT!

HEY, SARGE, LOOK! THE C.O.



WE NEED A PATROL TO BREAK UP THAT ARTILLERY NEST, SERGEANT. SO FAR THERE'S ONLY ONE GUN UP THERE, BUT THEY'VE GOT OUR RANGE AND THEY'LL LIKELY BRING UP MORE.

YES, SIR. THEY'LL KNOW THE TRUTH... AND I'LL HAVE THE MEN, SIR!

STRICTLY A VOLUNTEER OPERATION, SERGEANT. ALL MUST BE TOLD THE PERILOUS NATURE OF THE JOB.



"THERE WAS NO WORD SPOKEN BETWEEN SARGE AND US. JUST A LOOK, A RAISE OF BROWS. WE TOOK HOLD OF OUR RIFLES AND BEGAN CHECKING OUR AMMO.



"WE CLUNG CLOSE TO THE EARTH IN THE DEEP GRAY OF THE DUSK AND WE FELT IT'S WARMTH AND IT'S PROTECTION, FOR NOW IT WAS ALL THAT HID US FROM THE ENEMY...



"IN THE SHADOW OF THE HILL WE MADE A BREAK AND WE REACHED THE WOODS...

DOWN.... AND SPREAD OUT!



"WITH INFINITE CAUTION, WE CREEPT INWARD AND UPWARD, UNTIL WE WERE SURE WE HAD NOT BEEN SEEN. BUT THE REDS HAD BEEN EXPECTING JUST THE MOVE WE WERE MAKING. IT WAS SARGE, HOWEVER, WHO SPOTTED THEM FIRST...

TAKE THAT, YOU LOUSY HEATHENS!

RAT-TAT TAT-TAT!



LOOK OUT! GRENADE!!





"~~WE~~ BLASTED THE WOODS WHERE THE GRENADE HAD COME FROM, BUT THEY WERE ALL DEAD. WE WENT BACK TO THE SARGE...

HE DROPPED ON IT TO SAVE US. HIS GUTS... ALL BLOWN AWAY! THE LOUSY DIRTY REDS!



"COMMON SENSE TOLD US WE SHOULD GO ON, BUT WITHOUT A WORD WE ALL BEGAN TO DIG. IT WAS A SHALLOW GRAVE, TO BE SURE, BUT WHEN IT WAS READY, I TOOK HIS DOG TAG AND WE COVERED HIM WITH EARTH AND SAID A PRAYER FOR HIM...



"WITH LEADEN HEARTS WE CRAWLED THROUGH THE NIGHT, EACH OF US GRIM WITH THE DETERMINATION TO STAKE HIS OWN LIFE TO AVENGE SARGE'S DEATH. JUST AT DAWN...

GET SET, YOU GUYS. I'LL GIVE THE SIGNAL!



NOW!

BRAT
TAT

"NOT ONLY DID WE WIPE OUT THE NEST, BUT WE MADE SURE THAT ONE FIELD PIECE WOULD NEVER AGAIN BRING DEATH TO OUR MEN!"



"WE WATCHED THE FIELD PIECE HURTLE THROUGH THE AIR, AND EACH OF US FELT A DEEP SENSE OF GRATIFICATION THAT NOW WE COULD RETURN WITH MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!"





WHAT ABOUT THOSE SHELLS. HADN'T WE OUGHT TO CHUCK THEM OVER TOO?

YEAH, MAYBE WE'D BETTER.

SKIP THAT. THERE AIN'T TIME ENOUGH!



COME ON, YOU GUYS! FOLLOW ME! THERE'S A LOT MORE TO DO AND NOT MUCH TIME TO DO IT!

SARGE!

"WE KNEW IT COULDN'T BE, THAT SARGE WAS DEAD AND BURIED! YET, THERE HE WAS, EVEN TO THE BOOT WITH THE BLOWN-OFF HEEL -- LEADING US ON THE RUN...



COME ON! GET THE LEAD OUT! WE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO!

"WE RAN WITHOUT CAUTION, BUT WE MET NO ENEMY. WE KEPT GOING UNTIL WE WERE READY TO DROP, YET SARGE, IN SPITE OF HIS WOUNDS, WAS TIRELESS. AT LAST...



THERE'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO, MEN!

"WE KNEW THEN WHAT SARGE HAD MEANT. BELOW US CRAWLED THE DEADLY CATERPILLAR THAT WAS THE ENEMY, CREEPING ON TOWARD THE PLACE WE ALREADY HAD SILENCED. BUT WHAT WAS OUR PUNY FORCE AGAINST SUCH ENEMY STRENGTH?



"THEN WE ASKED OURSELVES IF WE SHOULD BE AFRAID, WHEN SARGE HIMSELF HAD LITERALLY COME FROM HIS GRAVE TO LEAD US..."

DESTRUCTION OF THE ENEMY WAS COMPLETE.



COME ON, GUYS. IT'S TIME TO GO HOME. I THINK IT'S GONNA RAIN AND I KNOW THE BEST WAY THERE!



NICE WORK. YOU SILENCED THE GUN, ALL RIGHT. WHEN YOU DIDN'T RETURN, WE THOUGHT YOU WERE LOST. BUT... WHERE'S SERGEANT WHITEHEAD?



THE C.O.'S WORDS ABOUT SARGE STRUCK US LIKE A SLAP ACROSS THE FACE. IT WAS TRUE--SARGE WAS NOT WITH US. WE STARED AT ONE ANOTHER, REALIZING WE HAD ALL SEEN THE SAME MIRAGE. AFTER A WHILE I FOUND WORDS...

SARGE WAS KILLED, SIR. FELL ON A GRENADE TO SAVE US!



THAT'S ALL THERE WAS TO IT. EXCEPT AS WE STARTED FOR OUR DUGOUT, MIKE ELDRIDGE GASPED, AND TURNED TO US...

KATZ! ALLEN! FOR GODS SAKE, LOOK!

ONE BOOT PRINT WITH A HEEL AND ONE WITHOUT! SARGE'S FOOTPRINTS CALL THE C.O.!!



BUT JUST THEN THE HEAVEN'S BROKE LOOSE IN A CLOUDBURST, TURNING THE OUTPOST INTO A SEA OF MUD AND WATER,-- WASHING AWAY EVERYTHING BUT THE MEMORY OF WHAT WE HERE RECORD."

The End

DANIEL ALVAREZ WAS A TWO TIME LOSER WHO WAS JUST RELEASED AFTER SPENDING A TOTAL OF TWELVE YEARS IN JAIL. THE CLINK HAD TAKEN ITS TOLL OF DAN. HIS WAYS WERE QUIETER, BUT IF YOU PEERED CLOSELY INTO HIS EYES, THE FLAME OF AROUSED PASSION SHONE THROUGH... TWELVE YEARS WITHOUT A WOMAN WAS THE TRUE PENALTY DAN PAID FOR. AND IT WAS THIS SHORTCOMING THAT MADE HIM A

KILLER at LARGE

A TRUE CRIME SHORT

DAN WAS PERSISTENT AND WAITED FOR HER OUTSIDE.



SHE CAN'T GIVE ME THE BRUSHOFF AND GET AWAY WITH IT.



HI YA SISTER. I'M STILL IN CIRCULATION SEE. CHANGED YOUR MIND YET? I STILL GOT THREE HOURS BEFORE MY TRAIN LEAVES.

YOU STILL AROUND?? GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS CHUM. I'VE GOT A HEAD-ACHE AND BESIDE I GOT A DATE WITH MY BED.

THE NEXT TRAIN TO SAN PEDRO WASN'T DUE UNTIL ONE A.M. SO DAN DECIDED TO KILL SOME TIME IN A LOCAL HASH HOUSE.



CUP OF JAVA— COUPLE OF SINKERS.... LIKE YOUR STYLE SISTER. HOW ABOUT HITIN' IT OFF AFTER HOURS?

"AN' I DON'T SEE YOU PUTTIN' ANY RINGS ON MY FINGER—BROTHER. NO DICE, WITH THAT LUGGAGE LAYIN' AROUND READY TO TAKE OFF.



NO TWO BIT DAME EVER SPOKE TO DANNY ALVAREZ THAT WAY. TWELVE YEARS WAS TOO LONG TO WAIT TO BE JILTED.

YOU'RE CRAZY YOU LUG. LET GO BEFORE I CALL FOR HELP! YAAAGG!



NOW TO BEAT IT BACK TO THE RAILROAD STATION. TH' POLICE WON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.



DANNY HOWEVER UNDERRATED THE POLICE.

THIS IS A LIKELY SUSPECT TOM. COME WITH US BUD, WE'D LIKE TO QUESTION YOU ABOUT A MURDER.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT OFFICER...PUFF I DON'T KNOW OF ANY MURDER...PUFF. PUFF....



WELL MAYBE I SHOULD EXPLAIN BUD. YOU RAN TO THIS STATION JUDGING BY THE WAY YOU'RE PUFFING AND SWEATING. THE NEXT TRAIN DOESN'T COME IN UNTIL TWO HOURS FROM NOW. SO YOU SURELY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN RUNNING TO CATCH THAT TRAIN NO SIREE, I'D RATHER THINK THAT YOU WERE RUNNING AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE MURDER. COME ALONG BUD.

DANNY ALVAREZ WAS TAKEN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME AND EVENTUALLY CONFESSED HE RETURNED TO JAIL AND WAS ELECTROCUTED.

Black Sorcery



Daring Bare-back She'll be entranced with it

Your Dream Girl will be an exquisite vision of allurements, charm, fascination and loveliness in this exotic, bewitching, daring, bare-back, filmy sheer gown. Its delicate, translucent fabric (washes like a dream) will not shrink. Paris at home, with this cleverly designed halter neck that ties or unties at the flick of a finger. Lavishly laced midriff and peek-a-boo bottom. She'll love you for this charm revealing Dream Girl Fashion. In exquisite black sheer.

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Please send BLACK SORCERY gown at \$9.95. If not entirely satisfied, I'll return within 10 days for full cash refund.

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() I enclose \$1.00. Will pay postman \$8.95 plus postage.

Check size wanted:
☐ 32 ☐ 34 ☐ 36 ☐ 38 ☐ 40

IN BLACK ONLY

(If you don't know the size send approximate height and weight.)

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SLIMS LIKE MAGIC! LOOK
SLIMMER, MORE YOUTHFUL**

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THE FIGURE ADJUSTER MUST BE THE BEST GIRDLE YOU EVER WORE . . . YOU MUST FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE, and you MUST look and feel younger . . . your shape MUST be noticeably improved or you get every cent back at once!

No matter how many other girdles you have tried, we believe: NO OTHER GIRDLE CAN DO MORE FOR YOU THAN THE FIGURE ADJUSTER! No other girdle or supporter belt offers you more TUMMY control, BULGE control, HOLD-IN and STAY-UP power . . . safely, scientifically. No other girdle can begin to approach the miracle-working FIGURE ADJUSTER feature! Figure

Adjuster is LIGHT in weight yet wonderfully strong! Figure Adjuster allows AIR to circulate through it, ABSORBS perspiration, is made by the most skilled craftsmen, and allows you to ADJUST it to just the right amount of BULGE control you like and NEED for an IMPROVED FIGURE! MAGIC PANEL CONTROL: No laces show when you wear a SLIMMING Figure Adjuster. The control you get is completely COMFORTABLE . . . and GUARANTEES healthful, fastening support. Its satin TUMMY PANEL laces right up to meet the bra—NO MIDRIF BULGE! LIFTS and FLATTENS the tummy, SLIMS down the waist, TRIMS the hips and eliminates the "SPARE TIRE" waistline roll! The magic ADJUSTABLE, slimming, easily controlled panel is scientifically designed and is the result of testing different kinds of panels on thousands of women! Figure Adjuster creates the "BALANCED PRESSURE" that gives each bulge the exact amount of RESTRAINT it requires. It gives you the right amount of SUPPORT when you need it MOST! Let Figure Adjuster give you MORE figure control . . . for more of your figure . . . let it give you a more BEAUTIFUL FIGURE . . . the slimmer, trimmer figure that INVITES romance. You ACTUALLY APPEAR SLIMMER AT ONCE WITH THE MAGIC PANEL control of Figure Adjuster. Colors: nude, blue or white. Panty or regular. Sizes 24 inch waist to 48, only \$4.98.

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At
\$4.98
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HOME WITH
RELAXING,
SOOTHING
MASSAGE!**

For Greatest Benefit
In Reducing by Massage

USE

Spot Reducer

with electricity. Also used as an aid in the relief of pains for which massage is indicated.



This remarkable new invention uses one of the most effective reducing methods employed by masseurs and Turkish bath—MASSAGE.

With the SPOT REDUCER you can now enjoy the benefits of RELAXING, SOOTHING massage in the privacy of your own home! Simple to use—just plug in, grasp handle and apply over most any part of the body—stomach, hips, chest, neck,

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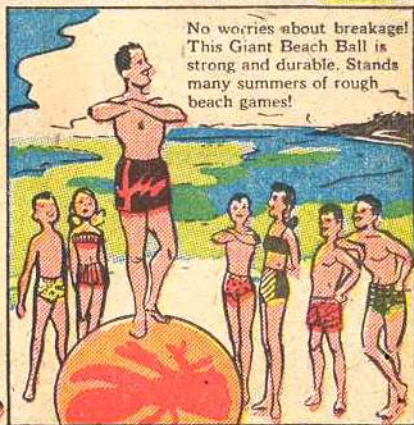
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THE WITCH OF TERROR-

CLARE MANGIN HAD SET AN EXACTING TASK FOR HERSELF, ONE WHICH REQUIRED THE DUPLICITY AND CUNNING OF A MASTER THIEF... AND AT THE SAME TIME DEMANDED THE ALLURE AND FATAL ATTRACTION OF A LUCREZIA BORGIA!

HER PRINCIPAL FOES WERE THE INSURANCE COMPANIES OF KANSAS... HER PRIMARY AIM WAS THE ACQUISITION OF THE MONEY WITH WHICH THEY GUARANTEED CERTAIN CLIENTS SHE HAD VERY CAREFULLY HAND-SELECTED! AND HER METHODS? THEY WERE SIMPLE AND DIRECT... SO SIMPLE AND DIRECT, IN FACT, THAT THEY SHOCKED A WHOLE GENERATION OF NEWSPAPER READERS!

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF WICHITA RESIDED THE MANGIN FAMILY... MOTHER AND FATHER... TWO DAUGHTERS, CHARLOTTE AND CLARE.....

ANOTHER DATE TONIGHT, EH? THE BOYS SURE KEEP YOU HOPPING, DON'T THEY?

THEY'D KEEP YOU ON THE GO, TOO, CLARE... IF YOU DIDN'T PICK FIGHTS WITH THEM SO EASILY! YOU'RE CERTAINLY AS ATTRACTIVE AS ANY OF THE OTHER GIRLS AROUND HERE... BUT... W-WELL... YOU FRIGHTEN MEN AWAY!

THE MANGIN SISTERS WERE AS DIFFERENT AS NIGHT AND DAY... THAT'S WHAT ALL THE NEIGHBORS SAID! CHARLOTTE WAS SWEET AND UNASSUMING! BUT CLARE? WELL... SHE WAS... SORT OF... MOODY AND MYSTERIOUS!

MEN... **BAH!** THE ONLY ENJOYMENT THEY GET OUT OF LIFE IS PUSHING US AROUND!



I'LL STAND ON MY OWN TWO FEET... NOT LIKE MOM, SCIMPING AND SAVING AND GETTING OLD BEFORE HER TIME, JUST TO CATER TO A MAN'S WHIMS! NO MAN'S GONNA PUSH CLARE MANGIN AROUND!



CLARE MANGIN RARELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE YOUNG MEN OF WICHITA... PREFERING TO SPEND HER TIME IN MYSTERIOUS SOLITUDE! BUT THEN A SUBTLE CHANGE BEGAN TO OVERTAKE HER....

PETER'S ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM! BUT YOU KNOW HOW SHY HE IS...

IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU FOR A SON, PETE! CONGRATULATIONS!



CHARLOTTE'S A FOOL JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER GIRLS AROUND HERE! LETTING THESE GUYS GIVE THEM THE RUN-AROUND THE WAY THEY DO... MAKING THEM PRIMP AND DRESS FOR 'EM!



WHEN! I WAS AFRAID YOU MIGHT OBJECT... OR SOMETHING! BUT NOW THAT WE CAN BE OFFICIALLY ENGAGED... I WANT TO SHOW YOU THE GIFT PETE BOUGHT FOR ME! YOU'LL LOVE IT...

I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE IT....



HMM... CHARLOTTE MAY BE A LOT BRIGHTER THAN I THOUGHT! SHE'S GOTTEN A NEW CAR OUT OF THE CHUMP ALREADY! MAYBE I'VE BEEN UNDERESTIMATING MY SISTER...



HER PARENTS BEGAN TO NOTICE THE CHANGE TAKING PLACE IN CLARE AND THEY WERE OVERJOYED BY IT... FAILING TO NOTE IN THEIR HAPPINESS THAT IT STARTED THE SAME TIME THAT CHARLOTTE RECEIVED HER ENGAGEMENT GIFT....



HAVE A NICE TIME DEAR... DON'T BE HOME TOO LATE! REMEMBER... TOMORROW'S A WORKING DAY!





WORKING DAY, EH? MAYBE TOMORROW... BUT NOT FOR LONG! I'M NOT GOING TO SLAVE ALL MY LIFE LIKE THE REST OF THESE FEMALE IDIOTS... I'LL HAVE MEN WORKING FOR ME!



[MOM WOULD DIE IF SHE EVER FOUND OUT WHAT I DO ON THESE SO-CALLED "DATES" OF MINE! WHAT A LAUGH... SHE THINKS ALL OF US SHOULD PLAY BY THE RULES MEN MAKE!



'SCUSE ME, MA'M... B-BUT WOMEN AREN'T ALLOWED AT THE BAR WITHOUT AN ESCORT! ... I'M WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO MEET ME.



THE YOUNG LADY'S WAITING FOR ME, CHARLIE! DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HER FOR A MINUTE IN THIS CUTE GET-UP SHE'S WEARING! EVERYTHING'S FINE... NO NEED TO WORRY...

OKAY, MR. BERRY... IT'S JUST THE RULE OF THE HOUSE...



VERY KIND OF YOU, MR. BERRY.. RESCUING A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS! THESE LITTLE INEQUALITIES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.. FEIGHTFULLY BORING, AREN'T THEY?

YOU BET... PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY KEPT ME FROM MEETING YOU UNTIL NOW!

THE HOURS OF THAT EVENTFUL EVENING SPED BY... AND ON HER VERY BEST BEHAVIOUR, CLARE MANGIN PROVED TO BE QUITE A SUCCESSFUL ENCHANTRESS AS FAR AS MARVIN BERRY WAS CONCERNED...



YOU SURPRISE ME, CLARE... I MEAN, A GIRL WHO LETS HERSELF BE PICKED UP....



PICK-UP. EH? SO THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK OF ME? I TOLD YOU BEFORE... I WAS WAITING FOR SOMEONE WHEN YOU CAME ALONG.. AND I JUST GOT TIRED OF WAITING!

OWW! I BELIEVE YOU, CLARE... I WAS ONLY KIDDING!

NO NEED FOR YOU TO GET SORE... IS THERE? I HAVEN'T GOT OUT OF LINE ALL EVENING... I JUST WANT TO BE FRIENDLY, THAT'S ALL.

L-LET GO... LET GO OR I'LL SCREAM!



I CAN **HOOT** THIS GUY IF I PLAY MY CARDS SKILLFULLY! JUST ENOUGH RESISTANCE TO MAKE HIM WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN! WHAT A **SAP**... BET HE THINKS I'VE FALLEN FOR HIS LINE OF MALARKEY!



SEE YOU TOMORROW NIGHT, CLARE... PICK YOU UP HERE AT THE HOUSE AT EIGHT-THIRTY!

WON'T YOU COME INTO MY PARLOR, SAID THE SPIDER TO THE FLY? MY WORK'S CUT OUT FOR ME.. HAVE TO INVESTIGATE MR. MARVIN BERRY CAREFULLY.. HIS BUSINESS, FRIENDS... **BANKROLL!**



AND SO, INCITED BY THE THOUGHT THAT HER SISTER CHARLOTTE WAS ABLE TO MANEUVER A SHINY NEW AUTOMOBILE BY PRETENDING LOVE... UNSCRUPULOUS CLARE MANGIN SET ABOUT OUTDOING HER SISTER!

T-THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU LET ME KNOW THAT YOU'D ACCEPTED MY OFFER, CLARE! C'MON... WE'VE GOT TO PAINT THE TOWN RED TO CELEBRATE OUR ENGAGEMENT!

THE FOOL! PROBABLY THINKS I FEEL FOR HIS STARRY EYES AND GLIB TONGUE! WHEN ALL THE WHILE IT WAS HIS DOUGH....



HERE'S THE BIG SECRET I'VE BEEN KEEPING FROM YOU, FOLKS! HIS NAME'S MARVIN BERRY... AND HE'S ANXIOUS TO CHANGE MY LAST NAME TO BERRY, TOO!



CLARE MANGIN BECAME MRS. MARVIN BERRY JUST TWO MONTHS LATER... AND HER PARENTS AND FRIENDS WERE ELATED BY HER APPARENT HAPPINESS, UNTIL.....

NO ONE IN THIS TOWN KNOWS ME... I CAN MAKE MY LITTLE PURCHASE COMPLETELY UNDETECTED... GET BACK HOME AND PREPARE THAT SAP'S MEAL! IF HE ONLY KNEW... THAT HIS **WIDOW** WAS ABOUT TO COLLECT HIS INSURANCE!

CLARE RETURNED HOME AFTER HER BRIEF EXCURSION TO PENNSVILLE AND WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST TRACE OF EMOTION BEGAN TO PREPARE THE MEAL THAT WAS TO PROVE TO BE HER HUSBAND'S **LAST!**

BEEN MARRIED FOR TEN WEEKS ALREADY... AND I'M GETTING SICK AND TIRED OF HIM! HMMM. TIME FOR MY LITTLE PLAN!



HA! MARVIN WILL JUST DIE OVER THIS SPECIAL CONCOCTION I'VE COOKED UP!





SAY... THIS SOUP
CLARE... IT'S AWFULLY
BITTER. WHAT'S
THE MATTER?...
FORGETTING
THAT YOU PROMISED
TO FEED, HONOR
AND OBEY ME
ALREADY?

W-W-WHY,
NO... NOTHING
WRONG WITH
THE SOUP.
MARV, DEAR!
TRY ANOTHER
SIP... MUST
BE YOUR
IMAGINATION!



THERE IS A PECULIAR
TASTE TO THAT SOUP,
CLARE... I-IT'S... W-WHAT?
YOU PUT INTO IT?
M-MAKING ME... (GASP)
... DIZZY... R-ROOM'S
GETTING DARK...
(GASP) --

YOU DON'T
KNOW THE
HALF OF IT,
MY DEAR!



C-CLARE... I'LL HELP YOU,
HELP MARV... RIGHT OUT
ME... OF EXISTENCE! A
LITTLE OF THIS
STUFF ON YOUR FINGER...
AND I CAN TELL THE
INVESTIGATORS THAT
YOU WERE SPREADING
POISON AROUND THE
HOUSE... AND SOME
ACCIDENTALLY GOT
INTO YOUR FOOD!

WITHIN AN HOUR MARVIN BERRY WAS DEAD...
KILLED BY THE POISON SECRETLY SPRINKLED
INTO HIS FOOD BY CLARE MANGIN! ACTRESS
THAT SHE WAS, SHE SUCCESSFULLY CONVINCED
THE INVESTIGATORS THAT HER HUSBAND'S
DEATH HAD GREATLY SHOCKED HER.....



THEY WERE FULL OF SYMPATHY...
JUST LIKE MEN... CAN'T SEE
PAST THEIR NOSES! WHAT
A LAUGH!



CLARE MANGIN ISN'T GOING TO SLAVE
FOR ANY MAN! TEN WEEKS OF IT
WAS ENOUGH FOR ME... AND NOW
I GET PAID OFF FOR PRETENDING
TO BE THE ADORING LITTLE
WOMAN! TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS
IN INSURANCE MONEY!

AS SOON AS SHE HAD COLLECTED HER
HUSBAND'S INSURANCE MONEY CLARE
MANGIN, STILL PLAYING THE ROLE OF THE
BEREAVED YOUNG BRIDE, SAW FIT TO TRAVEL
A BIT.....



CLEARING OUT OF TOWN RIGHT
NOW IS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR
ORDERED! I CAN'T KEEP UP THIS
PRETENSE OF MOURNING ANY
LONGER... I'LL LAUGH RIGHT IN
THEIR FACES IF I'M NOT CAREFUL!



COULDN'T WAIT TO SHAKE
THE DUST OF WICHITA!
NOW I CAN REALLY
ENJOY THAT MONEY
FROM MARY'S
INSURANCE!

TAKE MRS. BERRY'S
BAGS UP TO ROOM
716, BOY! SHE'LL
BE HERE FOR
SEVERAL WEEKS!

THOSE WEEKS IN THE EAST SPED BY WITH GREAT SPEED... BUT NOT SO FAST THAT DIABOLICAL CLARE MANGIN WAS UNABLE TO MEET AND BECOME FRIENDLY WITH A CERTAIN FRANK HALL.....

I'LL SAY GOODNIGHT NOW, CLARA! IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE BEING WITH YOU! DIDN'T THINK I COULD GET TO KNOW A GIRL SO WELL IN JUST A FEW SHORT DAYS...



CERTAINLY ODD THAT WE SHOULD MEET THAT WAY... JUST CASUALLY BUMPING INTO ONE ANOTHER AT A BAR!... BUT REGARDLESS OF THAT... I'LL CALL FOR YOU AGAIN TOMORROW AT EIGHT-THIRTY....

WHAT A LAUGH! THEY DON'T EVEN GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SPEND MARVIN'S MONEY... BEFORE ANOTHER MAN IS ANXIOUS FOR ME TO BECOME HIS WIDOW!



THIS WAS A GREAT IDEA OF YOURS, CLARA... SLIPPING AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION FOR OUR HONEYMOON! NO ONE KNOWS WHERE WE ARE... WHERE WE'RE HEADED!

AND NO ONE'LL KNOW EXACTLY WHY THIS IS GOING TO BE ONE OF THE SHORTEST MARRIAGES ON RECORD EITHER!

HERE'S A LITTLE FLOWER FOR YOUR HAIR, DARLING!

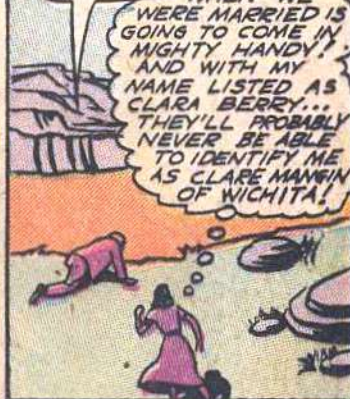
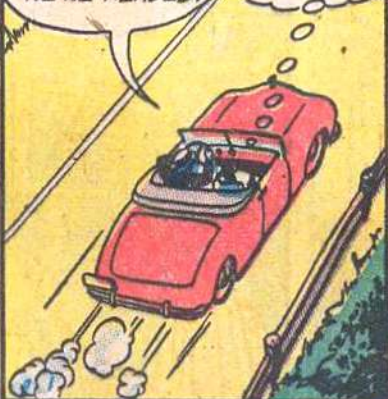
KEEP IT FOR YOUR FUNERAL! THAT INSURANCE YOU TOOK OUT WHEN WE

WERE MARRIED IS GOING TO COME IN MIGHTY HANDY! AND WITH MY NAME LISTED AS CLARA BERRY... THEY'LL PROBABLY NEVER BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY ME AS CLARE MANGIN OF WICHITA!



I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, DARLING... WITH THAT RECENT TRAGEDY OF YOURS! THIS WAY... NO ONE NEED KNOW FOR AWHILE!

OH, FRANK DARLING... YOU'RE SO CONSIDERATE!



THIS IS NO TIME FOR PLAYING, CLARA... I... HEY! N-NO... P-PLEASE!

SAVE YOUR BREATH, FRANK... YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT! WAY OUT HERE BY OURSELVES... NO ONE CAN DENY THAT I SAW YOU FALL OFF THE CLIFF ACCIDENTALLY! AND AFTER I COLLECT YOUR INSURANCE MONEY....

... CLARA BERRY DISAPPEARS FROM TOWN... AND CLARE MANGIN SHOWS UP AGAIN IN WICHITA... RETURNING AFTER THAT LITTLE TRIP SHE REQUIRED TO SOOTHE HER NERVES! NOT A BAD LITTLE INTERLUDE!

NEAREST PHONE IS MILES FROM HERE... WHO COULD SUSPECT THAT I DID ANYTHING BUT WATCH MY HUSBAND FALL ACCIDENTALLY TO HIS DEATH? THEN RAGE HYSTERICALLY TO THE PHONE TO REPORT THE TERRIBLE INCIDENT! AND WHILE EVERYONE IS SYMPATHIZING WITH THE BRIDE... SHE COLLECTS ANOTHER FIFTEEN GRAND! TEE-HEE!



SHE WAITED IN TOWN FOR SEVERAL WEEKS... LONG ENOUGH TO COLLECT FRANK HALL'S INSURANCE MONEY... AND THEN RETURNED TO WICHITA AS CLARE MANGIN... LEAVING HER IDENTITY AS CLARA BERRY BEHIND HER!

MY POOR DARLING... I HOPE YOUR TRIP WAS RESTFUL AND **FORGETFUL!**

YOU LOOK IN THE PINK, CLARE... FEEL WELL ENOUGH FOR A BIG SURPRISE?



PETE'S OLD FRIEND BURT RANDOLPH JUST CAME TO TOWN... HE'S OPENING UP A BRANCH OFFICE FOR HIS FIRM RIGHT HERE IN WICHITA! AND... WELL... PETE THOUGHT THE TWO OF YOU....

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, CLARE! YOUR FAMILY'S BEEN TELLING ME ALL ABOUT YOU!

OH, HAVEN'T THEY?



CLARE FOLLOWED THE USUAL PATTERN... BURT RANDOLPH, LIKE THE UNFORTUNATE MEN BEFORE HIM, FOUND HER IRRESISTIBLE... AND THREE MONTHS AFTER THEY MET, WERE MARRIED!

WHY, YOU CHEAP TIN HORN! YOU GAVE ME ALL SORTS OF STORIES ABOUT HOW MUCH DOUGH YOU HAD... AND ALL I'VE DONE SINCE I MARRIED YOU IS WORK MY FINGERS TO THE BONE! THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS INCREASE YOUR INSURANCE SO THAT WHEN...

THAT FIRST HUSBAND OF YOURS... HE DIED SOON AFTER YOU MARRIED, DIDN'T HE? AND PETE HANDLED HIS LIFE INSURANCE POLICY... TOLD ME THAT HE INCREASED IT GREATLY JUST A WEEK BEFORE HE DIED IN THAT "ACCIDENT"!

NOW DON'T TRY YOUR WOMANLY WILES ON ME, CLARE! THAT INSURANCE I'M CARRYING IS MORE THAN ENOUGH! BESIDES... WE CAN'T AFFORD....



WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT WHEN? WHEN WHAT?



L- LET GO OF MY WRIST, BURT...!



I'LL DO MORE THAN HURT YOUR WRIST BEFORE I GET THROUGH WITH YOU! I WANT THE TRUTH, CLARE... HOW DID THIS BERRY GUY PASS OUT? AND WHAT DID YOU DO ALL THE TIME YOU WERE AWAY FROM WICHITA? SPEAK UP...

Y-YOU'RE FRIGHTENING ME....



NO MAN'S GOING TO TALK TO ME LIKE THAT, YOU FOUR-FLUSHER! IF YOU WERE SO SUSPICIOUS OF ME THAT YOU HAD TO GO AROUND AND QUESTION EVERYONE IN WICHITA... WHY DID YOU MARRY ME?



M-MY HUNCH... WAS **RIGHT!**
YOU **DID** KILL YOUR
FIRST HUSBAND,
...Y-YOU'RE A
MURDERESS!

GOT IT
ALL DOPED
OUT, HAVEN'T
YOU? THINK
YOU'VE GOT ME
CORNERED, EH?

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE ALL
SET TO TALK TO THE
POLICE ABOUT ME, EH?
YOU CHEAP FOUR-FLUSHER...
I'LL STOP YOU FROM
BLABBERING IF IT'S THE
LAST THING I DO...

N-NO...
G-CLARE.
.....!!!



NO MAN IS GOING TO
GET ME INTO TROUBLE!
I'VE KNOWN SMARTER
GUYS THAN YOU...
AND I'VE TAKEN CARE
OF **THEM**, TOO!

HER LUCK SEEMED TO HAVE
TURNED SOUR, FOR CLARE
MANGIN (ALIAS CLARE BERRY,
CLARA HALL AND CLARE
RANDOLPH) WAS BROUGHT TO
TRIAL IN 1937 FOR HOMICIDE...
THE MURDER OF BURT RANDOLPH.

I AM FORCED TO RELEASE
YOU, CLARE MANGIN, FOR LACK
OF EVIDENCE! IT IS QUITE
APPARENT TO ME HOWEVER,
THAT YOU ARE AN EVIL AND
WICKED WOMAN!

LOOK AT THEM.. BELIEVING
WHAT THAT OLD GOAT HAD TO
SAY ABOUT ME! THERE'S
FEAR ON THEIR FACES.. HE
CONVINCED THEM THAT I'M
A SHE DEVIL... A **WITCH!**
WHAT A LAUGH!!



BUT IT WASN'T MUCH OF A LAUGH FOR
CLARE... WHEN SHE REALIZED SHE WAS
FEARED AND OSTRACIZED IN WICHITA!
FOR A WHILE SHE TRAVELED THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTRY.. BUT INEVITABLY SHE
TURNED HER FOOTSTEPS BACK TOWARD
HER HOME TOWN!

HOME AGAIN! IT'S BEEN A LONG
TIME... EVERYONE'S PROBABLY
FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME
BY NOW!



T-THEY... **RECOGNIZE ME!** I CAN
HEAR THEM CHATTERING... THEY
REMEMBER THAT CURSED TRIAL...
TALKING ABOUT ME LIKE COMMON
GOSSIP-MONGERS! AND THERE'S
NOTHING I CAN DO BUT TAKE
IT... AND ALL MY
MONEY IS
GONE!



HER MONEY GONE... HER REPUTATION GONE... CLARE MANGIN WAS REJECTED BY ALL WHO HAD KNOWN HER! HER FAMILY WAS SCATTERED... HER MOTHER HAD DIED DURING THE TRIAL... AND HER FATHER SOON AFTER... CHARLOTTE AND PETE HAD BEEN FORCED TO MOVE BECAUSE OF NOTORIETY!



IT WAS ALL MY FAMILY'S FAULT! IF THEY HADN'T INTRODUCED ME TO THAT DEAD-BEAT RANDOLPH...



BEEN WATCHING YOU, SISTER... NOTHING MAKES ME SO SAD AS A LONE DRINKER! CARE TO HAVE A DRINK WITH ME?

A D-DRINK? YEAH... LIKE TO VERY MUCH!

FINDING HERSELF IN A FAMILIAR SITUATION, ONCE AGAIN, CLARE MANGIN'S MIND BEGAN TO FOLLOW ITS USUAL PATTERN! SHE CAST OFF HER TACITURN MANNER... WAS FRIENDLY ENOUGH TO THE NEWCOMER SO THAT HE PROPOSED A DATE.....

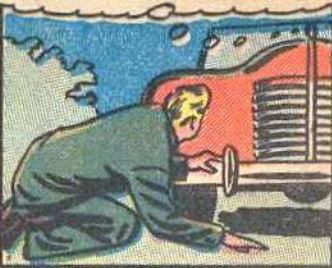
THE DAYS SPED BY... AND THE STRANGE COURTSHIP OF CLARE MANGIN PROGRESSED! FINALLY, THREE WEEKS AFTER SHE MET WILL MORTON... THEY WERE MARRIED IN WICHITA CITY HALL....

YOU'LL GO THE WAY OF ALL THE OTHERS, WILL MORTON! YOU'RE MY LAST CHANCE FOR INDEPENDENCE... FOR FREEDOM....

HE'LL BE HERE IN A FEW MINUTES! MUST BE AN AWFUL DOPE... DOESN'T KNOW WHO I AM, EVIDENTLY! HE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH... JUST AS SOON AS I DISCOVER HOW MUCH INSURANCE HE CARRIES!

T-THE FOOL THINKS I REALLY LOVE HIM.. CLARE MANGIN NEVER LOVED ANYONE BUT HERSELF! HIS INSURANCE IS PAID UP... I'M THE BENEFICIARY... NOW'S MY CHANCE TO COLLECT!

H-HEY! WATCH OUT... THAT STONE WALL!



SHE TRIED TO KILL ME... SMASHED INTO THAT STONE WALL WHEN THE CAR GOT OUT OF CONTROL!

THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS YOU WEREN'T HER VICTIM, WILL....

GUESS I CAN TEAR UP THIS 'PHONEY MARRIAGE LICENSE WE ISSUED TO YOU DOWN AT CITY HALL! WON'T NEED IT AS EVIDENCE AGAINST HER, EH?

NOT ANY LONGER, FRED! IT WAS A CUTE TRICK... MY POSING AS ANOTHER GUY JUST ASKING TO BE MURDERED FOR MY INSURANCE MONEY... BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY CHANCE WE HAD OF TRAPPING CLARE MANGIN! TO HAVE HER TRY TO MURDER A MEMBER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT!



THE WEIRD Murder

IN THE apartment of Norma Merkle were her boy friend, Sam Gregg and two friends of Gregg's, Marvin Osterman and Asa Fields. It was the night of March 23, 1928. Norma herself was a comely brunette, about thirty years old. Gregg was about thirty-five and the other two about Gregg's age. The men were no longer kids. They knew the score and didn't mind a bit of cheating to get by. In fact they thrived, in their own way, on crookedness. They were stickup men. Norma herself was on the level. She did not know the particular nature of Gregg's business, and, woman fashion, did not ask.

It was Osterman who, lounging about reading the paper, suddenly threw down his reading matter and rose from the chair in which he had been sitting.

"You guys coming with me, or are ya gonna sit there all night like a bunch of dopes?"

Gregg looked across the room. "You mind, Norma, if we take a powder for a little while?"

The woman shrugged. "Go ahead, if you like their company better than mine," she said.

Asa Field grinned. "Don't be like that, Norma," he said, slipping his top coat on. "This is business. How do ya think, Gregg's gonna take ya places if ya don't let him make no moola."

"I told him to go ahead," said Norma caustically. "I'll get along."

Outside the three men huddled in a dark corner of a street in Chester, Pennsylvania.

"What's up?" Gregg asked. "What's all the hurry, Marvin?"

"I'm broke," Osterman said. "And near as I can figure, you birds are, too. There's a chain store down past the Creek Road that stays open

late on Friday nights. We could make it just before nine. Then when the manager closes we can nab him going out with the cash. It'll be a cinch."

"Well, okay," Gregg answered. "I'll go get the car out of the yard. You guys wait here."

Just beyond the other end of the Creek Road a youth was bidding his girl good-night. He was a big handsome boy, whose husky arms made the girl seem small and completely in his gentle power. He bent down to kiss her, then turned her face away from his.

"Not on the lips tonight, dear. This color of mine, you know."

Bettina Williams smiled: "You're thoughtful always, Allen," she whispered. "But please get better fast!"

The boy, Allen Young, hugged the girl and smiling, turned away. "I'll see you again tomorrow night, honey," he said.

He was never to set eyes on her again. Death was just around the corner.

The road was desolate and lonely, but the moon was high and Allen Young had traveled the way thousands of times during his years,—as a boy, as a high school lad, as a young man. But at no time had the night and the moon seemed so bright, for tonight love illumined his way, too. Tonight Bett had said she would marry him! His thoughts were in the clouds. He paid slight, if any, attention to the headlights of the car jogging slowly down the road toward him.

In the car, behind the dim headlights Gregg held the wheel against the frost-hardened ruts in the road. Beside him Osterman stared ahead, his hands in his topcoat pockets—his right index finger tingling on the trigger of a .38

"Hey," he whispered. "This guy up ahead. I know him. He works in a store in Chester. He always carries a wad of green stuff with him. Maybe a couple of hundred."

"He'd be easy to roll," agreed Field eagerly. "Not half so much risk as the store!"

"Stop when we get up to him, Gregg," Osterman said. "Asa, you stick him up and I'll cover you. Gregg, stay here in the car for the getaway."

Allen Young did not realize the car had stopped until the man sprang from the vehicle and crossed the road. Young looked at the man and hesitated. Probably, he thought, someone who has lost his way. Then the second guy coming out of the car . . . that was Marvin Osterman. He had known him about town for years. Young stopped. "Having trouble?" he asked. His voice, was friendly.

The reply had little warmth in it. "Get your hands up, you," Field snarled.

Young looked at the gun in Field's hand, and at the .38 that Osterman held as he came up behind Field.

"So that's it!" Young exclaimed. "Why you no good rats, I could take you with one hand."

And he could. Allen Young was an athlete. He shot out with a right that sent Field's head back, and tipped the crook back on his heels. Again Young crashed his fist straight out and Field went down. For a moment Osterman stood staring, unbelieving that one unarmed guy could cause such havoc with their plans. Then a gun barked in the hand of Asa Field.

A flash of orange, a cry of pain as Young sank to his knees, his hands lifted to his head! The gun cracked out again through the night. Young lay groaning. Field turned. Osterman was drawing a bead. He, too, fired at Allen Young. Then the two, terrified at what they had done, turned and fled.

Back in town the trio split up. Gregg raced, pale and trembling, up the stairs to Norma's apartment. Barging in the door, he gasped, "Marv and Asa! They just bumped a guy off! We gotta get away!"

Norma cried out in fear. "Did they kill . . . I mean, is he dead for sure?"

"I guess so. He was groanin' something awful!"

Allen Young died that night in the hospital with the name of Osterman unspoken on his lips. He had tried to tell the police, but life had ebbed too soon.

The police were grim. This was wanton murder. And they lost no time in going to work, determined to trace down the ruthless killers. Bettina Williams, heartbroken, could not find a reason in her whole review of her association with Allen Young. Jealousy could not have been the motive, for there never had been anyone else for either of the two lovers.

Detectives Paul Newton and Edward Stannard went carefully over the ground. There were no clues, no motives, except, perhaps frustrated robbery. Newton nodded. That could be it. Perhaps there was a pattern of crime to follow. He called all surrounding towns and waited.

Results were fast. A criminal sets a pattern almost always. The vicinity of the chain store, the knocking out of the victim. This time it was murder, but the pattern was there all the same. There was a call from the Chief of Police in the next neighboring city. "Look for a guy named Osterman," the officer said.

When the trio of killers were rounded up they cried out in terror, each blaming another of their members. The testimony of Norma Merkle clinched the case for all.

On the 2nd of October, about six months from the date of the awful crime, Field and Osterman went to the electric chair to pay the penalty of their crimes. Even before that Gregg had begun serving a lifetime in prison.

THE SAGA OF THE SLAUGHTER

THE WEIRD STORY OF LEO SMITH AND HIS FANTASTIC HAIR-RAISING BATTLE WITH THE LAW

AT SEA

YA BLASTED IDIOT, SMITH—YA GOT US INTO THIS... WHY NOT LET US SURRENDER? I DON'T WANT TO HAVE MY GUTS TORN OUT BY ONE OF THEM SHELLS! TEN YEARS IN JAIL AIN'T AS BAD AS BEIN' RIPPED OPEN AND SPLATTERED ALL OVER TH' DECK!

WRIGHT'S TALKIN' SENSE, SMITH—GIVE US A BREAK... LET'S CALL IT QUITS! EVEN IF WE GET AWAY THIS TIME, WHO KNOWS—MEBBE THEY'LL BE SENDING A COUPLE OF CRUISERS AFTER US! FOR CRIME SAKE, SMITH—HAVE A HEART. WE AIN'T READY TO DIE YET!

GO ON, YA WHITE LIVERED PUNKS! IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN TH' WHOLE BRITISH NAVY TO SCARE ME... YOU BIRDS TOOK A CHANCE WHEN TH' GOIN' LOOKED EASY—NOW YA GOT TO STICK IT OUT WITH ME! AND IF YA TRY T' PULL ANYTHING I'LL RIP YA WITH THIS THOMPSON MYSELF—AND DON'T THINK I CAN'T FINISH THIS JOB WITHOUT YA!

A TRUE CRIME STORY

IT WASN'T MANY YEARS AGO, BACK IN THE '20'S, IN FACT, THAT 3 MEN MET IN A LONDON PUB TO HATCH ONE OF THE STRANGEST PLOTS IN THE ANNALS OF CRIME...

...SO YA GOT THE THING STRAIGHT? IT'S A CINCH! I DON'T CARE WHO THE TUB BELONGS TO, THE WAY I GOT IT WORKED OUT ONCE WE GET 'ER AWAY FROM ENGLAND SHE CAN BE CHANGED SO YAD NEVER KNOW 'ER. WE'LL CLEAN UP ON THE DEAL...AND I FIGURE WE'LL KEEP CLEANIN' UP...

Y'KNOW SMITH, TH' PLAN'S SO BLOODY CRAZY IT MIGHT JUST WORK OUT LIKE YOU SAY! THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU CHAPS FROM TH' STATES—IMAGINATION!

JUST A RIGHT SMART BLOKE... THAT'S WHAT 'E IS, BEN. TOO BAD WE DIDN'T MEET LEO A LONG TIME AGO... WE'D ALL BE RICH BY THIS TIME!

THAT'S RIGHT HONEY... I HAD THIS DEAL ALL FIGURED OUT BEFORE I SKIPPED OUT FROM CHI...AND LISTEN, MAY...WHEN THIS GIMMICK PANS OUT I'LL SMOTHER YA IN SABLES... YA'LL BE WEIGHED DOWN WITH DIAMONDS. HONEY—

NEVER MIND THAT STUFF, LEO... I BEEN TAKIN' CARE OF MAY PRETTY WELL... SHE AIN'T GOT NO NEED FOR YOUR HELP. JUST KEEP THIS ALL STRICTLY BUSINESS, OR THERE MAY BE SOME TROUBLE...

OH, COME OFF IT, DEARIE. LEO DON'T MEAN NO HARM... HE'S JUST GOT A GREAT BIG HEART. BESIDES, WHEN DID YOU EVER LOAD ME DOWN WITH FURS AND JEWELS, BEN? IF LEO WANTS TO—

SHUT UP! CUT IT, I SAY! THIS IS JUST A SAMPLE OF WHAT YOU'LL GET IF YOU TRY TO TWO-TIME ME, MAY...

OW! WHY YOU CHEAP—



LISTEN, BEN—MAY'S A BIG GIRL... SHE'S GOT A MIND OF HER OWN. I DON'T GO IN FOR THAT BUSINESS OF WHACKIN' A PRETTY DAME AROUND. HOW'D YA LIKE ME TO BAT YOUR EARS IN? I SAY MAY GETS ANYTHING I WANT TO GIVE HER, AND YOU KEEP YOUR BIG NOSE OUT OF IT UNLESS YA WANT IT KNOCKED OFF!

ALL RIGHT, M'LAD—JUST TRY IT...IF YA WANT TO GET YOUR THROAT SLIT! ASK JEFF WALKER HERE ABOUT MY WORK WITH A KNIFE...PRETTY AIN'T IT, JEFF? YEAH...COME ON, OLD BOY—I AIN'T ONE BIT OUT OF PRACTICE...JUST TRY ME!



YA NEED A LITTLE WET STUFF TO COOL YA OFF, BENNY BOY—AND MAYBE A LITTLE LESSON BESIDES! THIS IS THE WAY WE HANDLE SMART CHARACTERS BACK IN CHI...HERE'S THE FIRST STEP!

HEY! MY EYES! WHAT TH' DEVIL—!!!



HERE'S STEP NUMBER TWO, BENNY—AND YOU'RE A PRETTY LUCKY BIRD TO BE GETTIN' ALL THIS FREE OF CHARGE...THIS IS HOW WE USED TO MAKE THE SUCKERS KICK IN FOR PROTECTION BACK HOME...AND THIS ONE'S FOR MAY!

THAT'S IT, LEO HONEY—GIVE IT TO 'IM! MOP UP TH' FLOOR WITH 'IM!

NO! AWWWR!



NOW, BEN—WHO'S GOIN' TO CUT WHOSE THROAT? SEE, JUST AS EASY AS THAT! NOW...IF YA WANT TO GET UP AND KEEP YER NOSE CLEAN IT'S OKAY WITH ME!

SURE...SURE, LEO! IF MAY GOES FOR YA, IT'S LIKE YOU SAY...THAT'S HER BUSINESS! SHE'S ALL YOURS, PAL...I GOT ME HEALTH TO THINK OF!



NO GRUDGE, PAL... I GOT TO ADMIT YOU'RE A GOOD LOSER

RIGHT-O, LEO! THE WORLD'S FULL OF GOOD-LOOKIN' LADIES! I AIN'T GOIN' TO BE SORE OVER LOSIN' ONE OF 'EM!

YA GOT SOMETHIN' COMIN' TO YA JUST TH' SAME...I AIN'T FORGETTIN' THIS, SMITH!

C'MON, YA BLINKIN' CHUMPS—ARE WE GOIN' TO PLAY GAMES OR DO WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS



GET IT STRAIGHT, BOYS. FIRST I SET UP A PONEY COMPANY. YOU BOYS ARE EXECUTIVES, SEE, BIG STUFF! NOW, WHENEVER I NEED A REFERENCE YOU FELLERS PUT IT ON THICK...MY CREDIT IS OKAY WITH YOU. I OPEN A COUPLE OF BANK ACCOUNTS WITH SOME BIG BANKS IN THIS BURG WITH THE DOUGH WE CHIPPED IN, SO WHEN ANYBODY ASKS ABOUT ME HAVIN' THE GREEN STUFF TO PAY MY BILLS, THEM BIRDS AT THE BANKS TELL 'EM SURE, WE'RE LOADED!



A WEEK LATER...

THERE IT IS, BOYS...YOU ARE NOW PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF HENDERSON & COMPANY. A COUPLE OF BIG SHOTS. AND DON'T FORGET, IF ANYBODY ASKS, I'M A BIG SHOT FROM THE STATES...A MILLIONAIRE, SEE? NATURALLY WHEN YOU BOYS SAY I'M OKAY I CAN BUY WINDSOR CASTLE, CAUSE YOU'RE BIG BUSINESS AND YOUR WORD'S GOOD AS GOLD...IN A PIG'S EYE!

HA HA! YOU'RE QUITE A CARD, LEO!...BLIMEY, IF I AIN'T ALMOST CONVINCED I'M REALLY A BIG BUSINESS MAN...HARD TO KEEP IT FROM GOIN' TO MY HEAD, IF Y'KNOW WHAT I MEAN!



JUST KEEP YOUR MIND ON BUSINESS, YOU GUYS. IF THINGS WORK LIKE I LAID IT OUT WE'LL BE OUT OF ENGLAND AND IN THE SHIPPING BUSINESS IN TWO WEEKS—AND IT WON'T COST US A NICKEL...OR...A SHILLING...YEAH...WELL, I'LL SEE YOU GUYS LATER!

CHEERIO, LEO—GOOD LUCK!



SO, AFTER CAREFULLY LAYING HIS PLANS, LEO SMITH WAS READY FOR THE DARING FINAL MOVE IN HIS AMAZING SCHEME

HA HA! THOSE TWO LIMEYS HAND ME A CHUCKLE—WHAT SUCKERS...SURE, LET 'EM WORK...BIG SHOTS! HA HA HA! BUT WAIT'LL TIME COMES TO SPLIT THE TAKE...I'LL POWDER ON 'EM SO FAST THEY'LL THINK IT WAS ALL A DREAM! WELL, NOW HERE GOES THE BIGGEST PART OF THE DEAL! I HOPE THEY'RE ALL CHUMPS IN MERRY OLD ENGLAND!



THIS IS MR. LEOPOLD SMITH, SIR. HE HAS AN APPOINTMENT...

YES, THAT'S RIGHT. I EXPLAINED JUST WHAT I NEED. I HOPE TO START A WINTER CRUISE IF YOU HAVE A SATISFACTORY VESSEL. I ALREADY HAVE A NUMBER OF PROSPECTS FOR SUCH A VOYAGE. YOU KNOW, I HAVE A SIMILAR SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES... JUST ONE OF MY MANY ENTERPRISES.

AH, YES... THE MAN WHO TELEPHONED A WHILE AGO... ABOUT CHARTERING A YACHT...

I'M SURE WE CAN SUIT YOUR NEEDS, MR. SMITH... BUT I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND HOW YOU COULD PUT OVER SUCH A PROPOSITION DURING THE WINTER WHEN SUCH CRUISES ARE THE LEAST DESIRABLE?

THAT'S EASILY EXPLAINED. I INTEND TAKING THE VESSEL OUT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN... THERE ARE ENOUGH SUCKERS... ER... PEOPLE OF MEANS WILLING TO PAY FOR A WINTER-LONG VOYAGE UNDER

THAT WARM SUN, ANOTHER THING, I KNOW YOU DON'T EXPECT TO MAKE ANYTHING ON YOUR CHARTER BOATS AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, SO YOUR COMPANY OUGHT TO BE VERY HAPPY TO LET ME USE THE BOAT AT A REASONABLE RATE. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MR. LAMSTON?

I HAVE TO HAND IT TO YOU YANKEES... RIGHT SHARP BUSINESS MEN. LET'S SEE NOW, SMITH. I DO BELIEVE WE HAVE JUST THE VESSEL YOU REQUIRE. QUITE A SLICK YACHT. SHE'S IN TOP SHAPE, TOO. I'D LIKE YOU TO COME OUT TO THE DOCKS AND LOOK HER OVER.

THAT WOULD BE FINE... JUST WHAT I LIKE. ACTION—NO BEATING AROUND THE BUSH. IF YOU'VE GOT WHAT I LIKE AND THE PRICE IS RIGHT... I'LL GIVE YOU MY CHECK AT ONCE!

NATURALLY YOU'LL GIVE ME CREDIT REFERENCES? WE REQUIRE EITHER BANK OR BUSINESS CONFIRMATION. I PRESUME YOU CAN SUPPLY ONE OR THE OTHER...

YES, SIR—IN FACT YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH MY BANKS AND WITH HENDERSON & CO., YOU KNOW—THE SHIPBROKERS. I THINK THEY'LL TELL YOU PRETTY GOOD THINGS ABOUT ME!

THERE SHE IS... THE FERRET... AND AS I TOLD YOU, IN PERFECT SHAPE. YOU COULD ACTUALLY TAKE HER OUT TODAY... PROVIDED YOU HAD A CREW... AND SHE'LL CARRY 200 PASSENGERS!

AH, SHE'S SURE A BEAUTY! YEAH, I'M SOLD ON THAT BABY. DON'T EVEN HAVE TO GO ABOARD RIGHT NOW. IF THE FERRET IS AS PRETTY INSIDE AS SHE LOOKS FROM HERE IT'S JUST WHAT I WANT. LET'S GO BACK TO YOUR OFFICE MR. LAMSTON, AND I'LL GIVE YOU A CHECK... FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS RENTAL.

OF COURSE SHE'LL COST YOU QUITE A BIT TO RUN... TAKES PLENTY OF COAL TO MOVE A SHIP LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW...

UH HUH. MONEY'S NO OBJECT, LAMSTON. I ASSURE YOU, THOSE PEOPLE I'VE GOT LINED UP FOR THE CRUISE WILL MAKE IT WELL WORTH MY WHILE. I HAVEN'T CLEANED UP A COUPLE OF MILLION IN THE PAST TEN YEARS FOR NOTHING, PAL!

SMITH, I GOT TO HAND IT TO YA! YOU'RE A BLASTED RIOT! BY GEORGE, I GOT TH' BLINKIN' LETTER FROM TRANS-BRITAIN YESTERDAY, AND SAY, DID I PUT IT ON THICK. IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME NONE IF THEY OFFERED TO SELL YOU THEIR RAILROAD!

HAHAHA! "HAPPY TO RECOMMEND MR. SMITH TO YOU AS ONE OF THE BEST RISKS IN THE EMPIRE, I REMAIN SINCERELY YOURS, J. J. HENDERSON, PRESIDENT, HENDERSON & CO. SHIPBROKERS." HAHAHA... YA DID FINE PAL! THEY'LL BE EATIN' OUT OF MY HAND. AND WE'LL GET COAL AND GRUB THE SAME WAY! HERE'S TO THE S.S. FERRET. THE SHIP THAT AIN'T EVER GOIN' TO SEE THE TRANS-BRITAIN DOCKS AGAIN!

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER EVERYTHING WAS SET TO GO. JEFF WALKER, WHO AT ONE TIME HELD CAPTAIN'S PAPERS, PILOTED THE FERRET TO A PRIVATE DOCK WHERE SHE COULD BE LOADED WITH SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT IN PRIVACY... EVERYTHING WAS PAID FOR BY NOTE, DUE 3 MONTHS AFTER PURCHASE DATE—

WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE PRINTING PRESS I PICKED UP—WHAT A HONEY!

I KNOW YA AIN'T EVER GOIN' TO PAY FOR IT LEO... BUT WHAT TH' DEVIL D'VE NEED WITH A PRINTING PRESS... GOIN' TO SELL IT?

Y'SILLY BLIGHTER... SINCE THE ADMIRALTY TOOK ME PAPERS AWAY, I AIN'T BEEN A CAPTAIN. IF I'M GOIN' TO RUN THE FERRET WE'LL HAVE TO PRINT SOME NEW CREDENTIALS FOR ME! AND THERE'LL BE LOTS OF PONEY BUSINESS PAPERS TOO, BEN!

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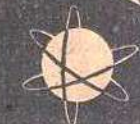
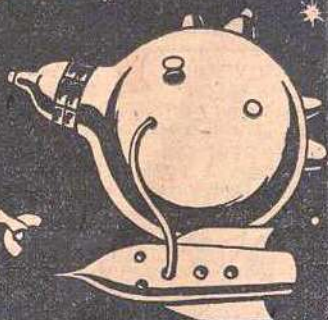
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WHAT ABOUT THE CREW, LEO? WON'T THEY BALK WHEN THEY SEE FUNNY THINGS GOING ON? MAYBE THEY'LL REPORT THE WHOLE GAG TO THE AUTHORITIES...

DON'T LET IT WORRY YA, HONEY. WHILE WE'RE AT SEA WALKER'S WORD GOES... HE'S REALLY THE BIG BOSS. IF THEY GOT ANY KICKS COMIN' IT'S MUTINY. THAT'S BAD STUFF, SEE. THEY GET TOSSED IN THE BRIG FOR THAT. BESIDES I'D JUST AS SOON BUMP A GOB AS ANYBODY. GET IT, BABY?

REALLY, LOVIE, YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THINGS, LEO!

YEAH, BABY... AND THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO! DON'T MIND THAT, DO YA, MAY?

BLOODY RAT! PURPOSELY SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF ME! THAT'S ALL RIGHT, CHAPPIE—SOME DAY I'LL DUMP IT ALL IN YOUR BLOOMIN' LAP!

THE FERRET IS BARELY 10 MILES AT SEA WHEN TROUBLE BEGINS...

I DO THINK I GOT A RIGHT TO KNOW, CAPTAIN WALKER... SAILING UNDER SECRET ORDERS AND ALL THAT SORT OF THING... IT JUST ISN'T DONE

NOW, LISTEN TILTON...

HOLD IT, WALKER—WE MIGHT AS WELL GET THINGS STRAIGHTENED OUT NOW... I DON'T GO IN FOR A LOT OF GAB WHEN IT COMES TO QUESTIONIN' MY BUSINESS.

WE'RE PAYIN' YOU DOUBLE, TILTON—SO WE DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN NOthin, SEE? THIS SEA VOYAGE AN'T GOIN' TO DO YA NO GOOD IF YA DON'T KEEP YER YAP SHUT!

LOOK HERE, SMITH. YOU HIRED ME, BUT I RANK NEXT TO CAPTAIN ON THIS SHIP... IT'S MY PLACE TO—

MAYBE YA RANK ABOVE ME, CHUM, BUT I'LL SHOW YA ONE WAY I CAN PUT YA DOWN!

SAY.. WAIT—

GET THIS STRAIGHT, JEFF—IN OUR BUSINESS IF YA LET ANYBODY GIVE YA ANY LIP, YOU'RE COOKED! DON'T TAKE NOthin, SEE? STEP ON WHOEVER GETS IN YOUR WAY!

I'M BEGINNIN' TO GET THE IDEA, LEO. I DON'T THINK I'LL HAVE ANY TROUBLE AFTER THIS, OLD BOY!

SHE'S THE S.S. FERRET, SIR, REQUESTING TO BE REPORTED. HER DESTINATION IS MARSEILLES.

SIGNAL THE FERRET WE'LL MAKE THE REPORT. TELL THEM TO PROCEED...

BUT LEO SMITH HAD OTHER PLANS, AND THE FERRET NEVER SAW MARSEILLES. INSTEAD SHE MYSTERIOUSLY HEADED FOR THE AFRICAN COAST ONCE THEY TOOK HER OUT OF SIGHT OF THE ROCK... THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND STAGE OF THIS WEIRD PLOT.

A MEETING IS CALLED IN THE FERRET'S LUSH SALON, AND LEO SMITH, PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY, ADDRESSES THE CREW

YOU BEEN DOIN' YOUR WORK NICE, BOYS. NO COMPLAINTS. MAYBE I OUGHT TO EXPLAIN THINGS. HERE'S THE STORY... I'M A POLITICAL REFUGEE FROM SOUTH AMERICA... THERE'S A PRICE ON MY HEAD IN MY COUNTRY. IN FACT SECRET AGENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE EVERYWHERE LOOKING FOR ME. I'VE BOUGHT THIS SHIP AND TAKEN HER HERE SO WE CAN ALTER HER APPEARANCE COMPLETELY... THAT WAY MY ENEMIES WILL BE THROWN OFF THE TRACK...

THE FERRET, COMPLETELY CHANGED IN APPEARANCE SETS SAIL FOR SANTOS, BRAZIL. MEANWHILE, AS LEO SMITH EXPECTED THE SHIP'S FAKED 'WRECKAGE' WASHED UP ON THE SHORE OF THE AFRICAN COAST WHERE IT WAS PICKED UP BY ARAB SHORE DWELLERS. THEY CALLED THE LOCAL AGENT OF THE HIGHLAND SHIPPING INSURANCE COMPANY...

YOU SAY YOU FOUND THIS STUFF THIS MORNING? IS THIS EVERYTHING?

YES. THIS EVERYTHING.. YOU GIVE REWARD, MISTER, EH?



YOU KNOW ANY REWARD WON'T COME FROM ME, BUT THE OFFICE IN LONDON IS VERY GENEROUS IN SUCH MATTERS. I'M SURE YOU'LL BE WELL CARED FOR IN DUE TIME! I'LL NOTIFY THEM IMMEDIATELY..

AH, YES..VERY GOOD, MISTER!



SEVERAL WEEKS LATER THE YACHT, NOW RENAMED THE BENTON, ARRIVED IN SANTOS, BRAZIL. LEO SMITH IMMEDIATELY PUT THE FINAL STEP OF HIS PLAN INTO ACTION...

...AND I'M SURE YOU WON'T FIND ANYBODY IN THE SHIPPING BUSINESS WHO WILL TAKE YOUR COFFEE ACROSS THE OCEAN AT SUCH LOW RATES

NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE PRICES MR. SMITH...YES I THINK I'LL LET YOU CARRY A SHIPMENT FOR ME TO FRANCE, IF IT WORKS OUT I SHALL BE GLAD TO CONTINUE WITH YOU.

SANTOS COFFEE COMPANY OF BRAZIL



THINK OF IT, BOYS...50,000 BUCKS WORTH OF COFFEE...THAT CHUMP THINKS I'M GIVIN' HIM A BARGAIN! HAH! WHAT A LAUGH! YA SEE HOW THIS IS WORKIN' OUT NOW? WE CAN PICK UP CARGOES IN EVERY PORT IN THE WORLD AND TAKE IT TO WHERE WE CAN GET THE MOST DOUGH!

I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED THERE WERE SO MANY CHUMPS IN TH' WORLD, LEO...IT'S ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!



SURE, PAL.. THE WORLD'S FULL OF SUCKERS. BUT WE STILL AIN'T SLIPPIN' UP ON A TRICK. AS SOON AS WE GET FAR ENOUGH OUT TO SEA I'M PUTTIN' THE CREW TO WORK AGAIN CHANGING THIS TUB'S LOOKS AGAIN.. AND HER NAME TOO. IF WE KEEP PLAYIN' IT SMART WE AIN'T EVER GOIN' TO GET CAUGHT!



MEANWHILE, A GROUP OF MEN MEET WITH AN EXECUTIVE OF THE HIGHLAND SHIPPING INSURANCE COMPANY UNDER UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES...

OH YES, SMITH PAID ME FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS, BUT THAT TIME IS NEARLY UP. IF, AS THESE OTHER GENTLEMEN CLAIM, SMITH'S BANK ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN, AND THE HENDERSON & CO. OFFICES HAVE BEEN CLOSED, I FEAR IT IS ALL QUITE SUSPICIOUS.

YOU'RE BETTER OFF THAN THE REST OF US, LAMSTON. YOUR COMPANY HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL BY THIS INSURANCE OFFICE FOR THE LOSS OF THE FERRET. WE GAVE SMITH SUPPLIES ON THREE MONTH NOTES, BUT WHEN WE WENT TO COLLECT ON THEM THERE WAS NO MONEY!



YOU DID WELL TO BRING THIS MATTER TO OUR ATTENTION, GENTLEMEN. INDEED THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE MOST SUSPICIOUS. I SHALL ADVISE OUR AGENTS, YES, AND NAVAL AND CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES TO KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR THE FERRET. NO DOUBT, IF SHE STILL FLOATS, HER NAME AND APPEARANCE HAVE BEEN CHANGED... BUT WE'LL FIND HER!



THE AUTHORITIES AT GIBRALTAR TOLD US THAT THE FERRET REPORTED BEING ON THE WAY TO MARSEILLES, BUT THE WRECKAGE WAS FOUND OFF THE COAST OF AFRICA. WE HAD NO REASON TO SUSPECT ANYTHING AT THE TIME... SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN LOST IN A STORM... BUT NOW WE'LL CHECK EVERY MOVEMENT OF THE VESSEL IF SHE'S STILL AFLOAT. GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN!



THE BENTON SOON ARRIVES BACK AT THE AFRICAN COAST WHERE SMITH DISPOSES OF HER CARGO.

I SOLD EVERY BEAN OF THE JAVA, BOYS...EVERY SINGLE BEAN! WE GOT 60,000 BUCKS...COUNT IT, BOYS... AND IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING! AND WHEN WE'VE CLEANED UP LIKE THIS IN EVERY PORT, I'M GOING TO SELL THIS SCOW. THAT'LL BE ANOTHER 100,000. IF WE AREN'T MILLIONAIRES AT THE END OF THIS VOYAGE I'LL EAT EVERY INCH OF TRACK ON THE TRANS-BRITAIN RAILWAY!

OH, HONEY, YOU ARE WONDERFUL!



GREAT WORK, LEO! DO WE DIVIDE NOW?

WHY WORRY ABOUT IT NOW, BENNY? THIS GREEN STUFF GOES INTO THE SHIP'S SAFE. YA AIN'T AFRAID I'M GOIN' TO MAKE OFF WITH IT, ARE YA? I'D HAVE A HARD TIME WALKIN' OFF WITH THE SHIP WOULDN'T I?



AW, DON'T GET ME WRONG, SMITH—I JUST NEVER SEEN THAT MUCH MONEY AT ONE TIME. I'D SURE LIKE TO HOLD IT IN MY POCKET FOR A WHILE..

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, PAL. I FEEL TOO GOOD TO BE SORE. BUT THIS ISN'T ANYTHING COMPARED WITH WHAT WE'LL HAVE WHEN WE'RE FINISHED, BENNY. YER POCKETS WON'T BE BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD ALL THE LETTUCE... SO JUST FORGET IT!



SOON AGAIN THE BENTON IS ON THE MOVE..

WE'LL PUT IN AT BREMEN THIS TIME, JEFF. WE CAN WORK THE PORTS OF EUROPE, ASIA, AND THEN WE'LL TAKE HER TO MELBOURNE AND SELL HER. THEN I'M GOING TO RETIRE... MEBBE BUY A SHEEP RANCH—

NOT ME, LEO.. I MISS LONDON...I THINK I'D EVEN KISS A BOBBIE, I'M THAT ANXIOUS TO SEE HOME AGAIN.



I AIN'T GOT A HOME, WALKER.. NOTIES... NOTHIN' TO HOLD ME. AS FOR KISSIN' A COPPER—HA! I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE THE LAW. SEE YA LATER, PAL!

YES, OLD FELLOW... GOOD NIGHT...AND DON'T TAKE ME TOO SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE POLICE. I DON'T CARE ONE BIT MORE FOR 'EM THAN YOU DO!



HELLO, MAY! YA LOOK SWELL TONIGHT HONEY! SAY WHY THE SOURPUSS, KID? WHAT'S UP?

I GUESS IT'S IT'S NOTHING, LEO... JUST BEEN THINKING A LITTLE BIT...



...I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE MONEY YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING... I MEAN BENNY'S AND JEFF'S CUT. FUNNY NOT LETTING THEM HOLD IT THEMSELVES... THAT STUFF ABOUT PUTTING IT IN THE SHIP'S SAFE DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH ME, LEO...

SO? DON'T YA KNOW THINKIN' IS BAD FOR LITTLE GIRLS? LISTEN, BABY, IF YA WANT IT STRAIGHT THERE AIN'T GOIN' TO BE ANY CUT. I'M NOT SPLITTIN' WITH THEM PUNKS... NOT WHEN I GOT TO DO ALL THE BRAINWORK. IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, KID—



WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU AND ME? I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN YOU'D PULL A DOUBLE-CROSS! OH YES, I WENT FOR YOUR SMOOTHIE TALK, BUT I'M NOT HAVING ANY MORE OF IT, MAYBE BEN WRIGHT ISN'T ANY DON JUAN, BUT HE'S ON THE SQUARE WITH HIS PALS! AND I'M NOT GOING TO STAND BY AND SEE HIM CHEATED!

HUH? SO THAT'S TH' WAY IT IS, EH MAY?



YES, THAT'S JUST— UGHWW...

THAT'S TOO BAD FOR YOU, MAY! YOU OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER THAN TO CROSS ME... I KIND O' LIKED YOU, TOO, WELL, GOODBYE KID..



OH, HELLO BEN... THOUGHT YA'D BE IN YOUR BUNK.. BY THE WAY, HAVE SEEN MAY AROUND? I BEEN IN WITH JEFF TILL A FEW MINUTES AGO...

HUH?...OH, IT'S YOU LEO...COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD YOU CHATTING WITH SOMEONE ON DECK. MAY? NO, I'VE BEEN IN MY CABIN... HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE DINNER!



YE'VE BEEN UP TO SOMETHING, YE RAT...IF YE'VE HURT MAY I GIVE YE WHAT'S COMIN' JUST THAT MUCH SOONER...

WELL, IF YA SEE HER JUST SAY I'M IN THE BAR, BENNY, WILL YA?



WHILE LEO SMITH GLOATS OVER THE SUCCESS OF HIS FANTASTIC UNDER-TAKING THE WORLD-WIDE MACHINERY OF THE POWERFUL HIGHLAND SHIPPING INSURANCE COMPANY WAS SET INTO ACTION...

MR. ROGERS, I WANT YOU TO WIRE A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE MISSING FERRET TO EVERY CUSTOMS OFFICER IN EVERY PORT IN THE WORLD. ALSO TELL THEM A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE VESSEL WILL FOLLOW, AND THEY ARE TO CONSIDER THAT THE GENERAL APPEARANCE MAY BE ALTERED, BUT THE ORIGINAL SHAPE AND TONNAGE WOULD BE AS THEY WERE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

YES, SIR. I'LL TEND TO IT AT ONCE!



WITHIN THE HOUR CUSTOMS OFFICERS AND AGENTS IN BOTH HEMISPHERES HAD RECEIVED HIGHLAND'S MESSAGE, AND, UNKNOWN TO THE 3 GRAND-SCALE SWINDLERS, AN IN-ESCAPABLE NET WAS QUICKLY CLOSING IN ON THEM...



SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

SEE HERE, SMITH... I'VE COMBED EVERY INCH OF THIS SHIP FOR MAY...AND THERE'S NOT A TRACE OF HER. BUT YOU DON'T SEEM ONE BLAMED BIT WORRIED! DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS, SMITH? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER?

WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE, BENNY--A NURSE-MAID? IF MAY WANTS TO PLAY HIDE-AND-GO-SEEK IT'S HER BUSINESS. AND IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO 'ER..WELL, THAT'S TOO DANGED BAD-- BUT I AIN'T WORRIED, SEE? THERE'S PLENTY O' DAMES IN THIS WORLD



WHY YE BLOODY SNAKE...MAY WAS FINE FOR ME, BUT YE HAD TO TAKE 'ER AWAY...YE HAD TO BE GREEDY--I'LL KILL YE SMITH--

ENOUGH O' THAT, BEN! WATCH YOUR TEMPER BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT!

LET 'IM COME, WALKER... WE CAN GET ALONG WITH WITHOUT THAT PUNK!



LISTEN, I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE ENDED THE BUSINESS.. IF THINGS KEEN UP THE WAY THEY HAVE BEEN THERE'S GOIN' TO BE A BLOW-UP...MEBBE IT'LL ATTRACT ATTENTION OF TH' COPPERS IF THERE'S TROUBLE ABOARD SHIP...THEY HAVE WAYS OF FINDIN' OUT THINGS! I SAY WE HEAD FOR AUSTRALIA, DIVIDE WHATEVER MONEY WE GOT...AND THAT'S PLENTY-- AND SELL THIS TUB. WE'D ALL BE BETTER OFF GOIN' OUR OWN WAYS...

THE WHOLE DEAL GETS TO BE STUPID IF ONE, OR MEBBE TWO OF US GET KILLED OVER SOME SILLY ARGUMENT. DON'T GET ME WRONG, BEN. I'M WORRIED ABOUT MAY TOO, BUT SHE'LL TURN UP MEBBE...

YEAH, YA MAKE SENSE WALKER. WE'LL DUMP THIS TUB IN AUSTRALIA, AND THEN CALL IT QUITS...



SURE, SMITH...WE'LL CALL IT QUITS...WE'LL QUIT WITH A BELLYFULL OF LEAD! MEBBE THAT FOOL WALKER AIN'T ON TO WHAT YE'RE UP TO, BUT YE AIN'T FOOLIN' ME...FIRST MAY GOES... THEN ME... THEN WALKER. NO, SMITH-- YE GOT NO INTENTIONS O' DIVIDIN' WITH ANYBODY. ONLY I'M GOIN TO SEE YE DEAD BEFORE THAT HAPPENS!



TWO WEEKS PASS, AND THE KIDNAPPED VESSEL ARRIVES IN AUSTRALIA...

WELL, THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE GOT TO GET THROUGH CUSTOMS, BOYS. WE'LL DUMP WHAT CARGO WE GOT AND THEN SEE WHAT A SHIPBROKER CAN GET FOR THE CRUMBY SCOW. I'M GETTIN' KIND OF SICK O' LOOKIN' AT WATER ANYHOW!

I'M KIND O' SORRY TO BE LEAVIN' ER... ALWAYS DID LIKE HANDLIN' A SHIP. MEBBE WITH MY SHARE O' TH' SWAG I'LL BUY MYSELF A LITTLE SCHOONER—



AH, YES... UHHUH... THE S.S. INDIA... YES, YOUR PAPERS SEEM TO BE IN ORDER. YOU MAY BRING YOUR CARGO ASHORE FOR INSPECTION...

THANK YOU, SIR. AND IF YOU DON'T MIND, WHILE YOUR MEN INSPECT THE LOAD, WE'D LIKE TO ATTEND TO SOME BUSINESS...



I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING THE INDIA RIGHT UP TO THE PIER? OUR HARBOR IS DEEP ENOUGH TO HANDLE A VESSEL OF TWICE THE DRAUGHT. ANOTHER THING, WHY ARE YOU KEEPING YOUR FURNACES BANKED? JUDGING FROM THE SMOKE FROM 'ER STACK YOU'RE READY TO LEAVE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE...

IT'S A STRANGE BUSINESS, SIR... AND I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT. THEY PAY ME VERY WELL TO DO MY WORK, SO I DON'T ASK QUESTIONS...



I'VE NEVER SEEN TH' LIKES OF IT... SURE WON'T DO ANY HARM TO BRING IT TO THE CHIEF'S ATTENTION...



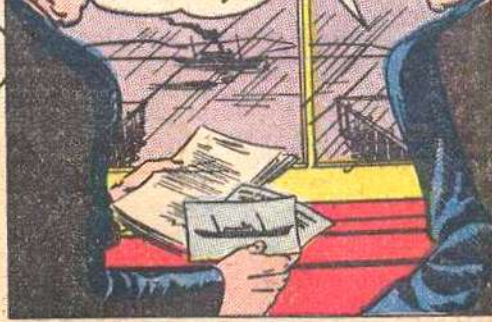
YOU DID THE PROPER THING IN CALLING THIS MATTER TO MY ATTENTION, BAILEY... I'M GOING TO CHECK WITH THE HIGHLAND INSURANCE SHIPPING LIST. AND SAY, DIDN'T THEY REPORT A YACHT BELONGING TO TRANS-BRITAIN RAILWAY STOLEN?

BY HEAVENS, CHIEF... I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING HAD ME BOTHERED— COULDN'T QUITE PLACE MY FINGER ON IT... IF THAT ISN'T THE MISSING FERRET THEN IT'S HER TWIN!



WE CAN'T BE WRONG BAILEY— LOOKING AT HER AGAINST THE HORIZON SHE'S A DUPLICATE OF THIS PHOTO THEY SENT US. BESIDES, HIGHLAND HAS NO LISTING FOR A SHIP NAMED THE INDIA. BAILEY, GET IN TOUCH WITH HIGHLAND'S LOCAL AGENT..

RIGHT, SIR... AND I THINK IT WOULD BE WELL TO CONTACT THE NAVY— IN THE EVENT THEY SHOULD TRY TO SKIP OUT!



A SHORT WHILE LATER, RETURNING TO THE INDIA—

127,000 BUCKS! WOW! THAT'S A LOT BETTER'N I EXPECTED TO GET FOR THIS TUB..

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE MONEY? HOW'S ABOUT DIVIDING THAT UP NOW?



WHAT'S THE MATTER, WRIGHT, DON'TCHA TRUST ME? YOU C'N WAIT TILL ALL THE DOUGH COMES IN, CAN'T YA? PAL, WHEN I SEE YOU FOR TH' LAST TIME IT'S GOIN' TO BE A HAPPY MOMENT!

YEAH, SMITH... A VERY HAPPY MOMENT... FOR ME!

PIPE DOWN, YOU BIRDS.. I DON'T LIKE TH' LOOKS OF THIS... CUSTOMS OFFICER COMIN' OUR WAY...



I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU MEN TO COME ASHORE WITH ME. MR. CARR HERE IS AGENT FOR HIGHLAND INSURANCE... HE HAS CONFIRMED OUR SUSPICION THAT THIS VESSEL IS THE FERRET... YOU'LL HAVE TO...

WE'LL HAVE TO NOTHIN', PAL... GET OFF THIS TUB QUICK... WE'RE PULLIN' OUT NOW...



GET A MOVE ON, YE INFERNAL SONS OF SATAN! GET THIS SHIP OUT OF MELBOURNE HARBOR...

SO YA YELLED COPPER, YA RATS... INTO THE DRINK WITH YA! WE AIN'T WAITIN' AROUND TO BE SLAPPED INTO NO LIMY CLINK!

YOU BIRDS GET TH' ARTILLERY ON DECK... TILL WE GET INTO FREE WATERS WE'RE GOIN' TO TOSS LEAD AT THEM SEA GOIN' COPS! HURRY, BEFORE THEY GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO BLOW US TH' HECK OUT O' TH' WATER!

YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT. 3 MILES AT SEA AND WE'RE SAFE—

SAILOR, GIVE THOSE BLIGHTERS A WARNING BLAST... AND IF THEY DON'T HEAVE TO PUT THE NEXT ONE THROUGH THE STERN!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, WRIGHT—YA TOO DARNED YELLER TO SHOOT? WHAT'RE YA WAITING FOR? FEED 'EM BLAZES!

I'M SAVIN' IT SMITH—I'LL SHOOT AT TH' RIGHT TIME! I DON'T WANT TO WASTE A SINGLE SHELL!

NEVER MIND THAT ONE POUNDER... A SHOT IN TH' WRONG PLACE MIGHT SINK 'ER! JUST RAKE THE DECK WITH THAT ACK-ACK GUN... AND SHOOT TO KILL!

AYE AYE, SIR...

EEEAAGHrrr!

WHY, YA SLIMY ~~OX!!~~!! YA WANT TO SLAUGHTER US LIKE CATTLE

YE AIN'T THAT GOOD, SMITH—YE'RE A FILTHY RAT! TURN AROUND SMITH—THEY'RE GOIN' TO GET ME... BUT I AIN'T GOIN' TO LET 'EM GET YOU! I BEEN WAITIN' TOO LONG FOR THIS TIME!

HERE, SMITH—THIS IS FOR MAY! AND ME! AND EVERY OTHER POOR BLOKE YE EVER BUTCHERED... YE... YAGHRRRRrrr...

WHY, YA DIRTY DOUBLE-CROSSIN'—UGHRRRRrrr!

SAILOR... ROUND UP THE RADIO MAN OF THIS SHIP AND HAVE 'IM WIRE THE NAVY DEPARTMENT THAT WE'VE FOUND THE FERRET, AND WE'LL BRING 'ER INTO MELBOURNE AT ONCE! AND YOU... FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, HEAVE THOSE BODIES OVERBOARD BEFORE THEY FOUL UP THE AIR!

AYE AYE, SIR!

CRIME NEVER PAYS!

MR. TV OWNER!

Stop TV Interference At Once And Stop It—For Good!

An amazing no-risk challenge to every set owner who is tired of paying
\$5-\$10-\$15 for THE SAME TV REPAIRS . . . OVER AND OVER AGAIN!

Do you know that 95% of the wavy lines, streaks, zags, distortions, picture roll, flutters, and snow that ruins your TV viewing are not caused by your set at all? That they cannot be eliminated by your repairman, no matter how good he is! That they cannot be prevented by your antenna, no matter how powerful it is!

Yes, 95% of your costly television troubles are caused by electronic TV interference from the outside. And the only way to permanently remove that interference is to **BLOCK IT OUT**, before it even reaches your set—in exactly the same way sunlight glare is blocked out by sun glasses, before it reaches your eyes.

This is exactly what a revolutionary new TV invention—the **TELERON TV WAVE TRAP** (Pat. Pend.)—does for your set. This amazing "Interference Eliminator" actually eliminates the 6 most aggravating forms of interference, before they can reach your set. It actually strengthens your reception on all channels—even in poor reception areas.

WHICH OF THESE 6 TV HEADACHES DO YOU WANT TO REMOVE FOR GOOD?

WAVY LINES

— Caused by airplane flying as much as 15 miles away from your home. Mr. Os-



CAR HOLDEN of New York City writes: "My **TELERON WAVE TRAP** eliminates 95% of all wavy lines within 15 minutes after I clipped it on my set."

DISTORTION

— Caused by outside telephone lines up to 11 miles away from your home . . .



or by other neighborhood TV sets and antennas that compete with your set for the same channel.

TELERON WAVE TRAP eliminates 93% of all this interference **BEFORE IT REACHES YOUR SET.**



S N O W — Caused by constantly running electrical appliances in your home — such as refrigerators and oil burners. Mr. M. CAINE of Chicago, Ill. reports: "I live in a big apartment house where there's plenty of electrical interference. But since I clipped a **TELERON WAVE TRAP** on my set I haven't been bothered once by snow."



as much as 3 miles away from your home.

Mr. WILLIAM BENTLEY of Los Angeles writes: "My family couldn't go through a night of TV viewing without getting terrific TV interference from a hospital about 2 miles away. Then I heard about the **TELERON WAVE TRAP**. I tried it. And now, 6 months later I have only been bothered once by those diathermy machines in that hospital."



STREAKS

— Caused by car ignitions, trucks or busses up to 2½ miles away from your home . . . or by neon signs, doorbells, electric toasters, broilers, radios and phonographs within 1 mile of your home.

TELERON WAVE TRAP eliminates 98% of all this in-

terference **BEFORE IT REACHES YOUR SET.**



TV STATIC — Caused by atmospheric conditions up to 5 full miles away from your home.

TELERON WAVE TRAP eliminates 95% of all this irritating interference **BEFORE IT REACHES YOUR SET.**

MOVIE-CLEAR RECEPTION 365 DAYS A YEAR!

Send for your **TELERON WAVE TRAP** today. Send no money. When your **TELERON WAVE TRAP** arrives simply clip it on the back of your set. It takes only 30 seconds — you need no special tools, no training. And it fits every set made since 1947 — no matter what the brand, style or year. See for yourself how this amazing invention gives you sharp, clear pictures. How it adds new life to your picture even in fringe areas—even in weak reception zones—even on channels you could hardly pick up before.

HERE'S PROOF—TEST IT IN YOUR OWN HOME! AT OUR RISK!

If you order your **TELERON TV WAVE TRAP** today, you do not pay the \$5 that 50,000 other TV owners paid—you deposit only \$2.98 with the postman. If after you clip this amazing **TELERON WAVE TRAP** on your set, you are not getting perfect movie-clear reception—please return for full money back! You try it at our risk—you do not buy it until you are 100% satisfied. **ORDER TODAY AND SAVE \$2!**

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TELERON TV WAVE TRAP, 400 MADISON AVE., N.Y. 17

Please send me the TV WAVE TRAP immediately, at \$2.98, plus C.O.D. postage. I understand that satisfaction is guaranteed 100%.

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